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CHILD WELLNESS CENTER

Purpose

The Child Wellness Center ("CWC") aims to:

- Provide trauma-informed care to children who are victims of child abuse or neglect.
- Reduce the additional traumas that children experience when entering the protective services system.
- Provide staff who work in this emotionally and physically taxing field a safe, healthy environment to thrive and decompress.

The first 48 hours

Children come into CYFD care and custody at all hours of the day and night. In the current offices, children await placement in office buildings that are not conducive to address the trauma or needs that arise from the removal of these children away from their home. The proposed CWC is envisioned to improve the intake process such that the experience is child-friendly, short-term, developmentally appropriate, evidence-informed, and occurs in a home-like setting.

The proposed CWC will provide:

- An entrance that considers staff and child safety considerations through proper separation, spacing and traffic flow.
- Appropriate showers.
- Medical room for basic triage.
- Access to kitchen and washer/dryer.
- Multiple trauma-informed spaces for children while we look for proper placement.
- Age-appropriate cribs and beds.
- Staff sleeping area within sight/sound of children.
- Temporary workstation space for staff to access FACTS.
- Intake space for providers that serve during this stage of the process.

Beyond the first 48 hours: Family Engagement/ Youth Engagement

Most parents who have children in the custody of CYFD are working on a reunification plan that includes supervised visitation with their children. Supervised visitations require a special space with safety considerations for the children and staff as well as a separate entrance for both the children and their parents. The proposed CWC is envisioned to foster this type of space as well as create an environment that is protective of children whose parents do not show up for the supervised visitation.

The proposed CWC will provide:

- Family visitation rooms with separate entrances for children and parents, two-way mirrors, sound proofing, audio and recording considerations, and age-appropriate waiting areas.
- Indoor and outdoor space to accommodate 7-10 families at any given time, including play areas and picnic areas.
- Full kitchen for families to cook for children.